Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of the claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (currently amended): An immunogenic conjugate comprising a synthetic homopolymer of poly-γ-glutamic acid (γPGA) polypeptide covalently linked to a carrier, wherein the conjugate elicits an immune response against poly-γ-glutamic acid (γPGA) polypeptide in a subject.

Claim 2 (previously presented): The conjugate of claim 1, wherein the conjugate comprises a γPGA polypeptide comprising 5-20 glutamic acid residues.

Claim 3 (original): The conjugate of claim 1, wherein the conjugate comprises a γPGA polypeptide comprising 10-15 glutamic acid residues.

Claim 4 (original): The conjugate of claim 1, wherein the conjugate comprises a decameric γPGA polypeptide.

Claim 5 (previously presented): The conjugate of claim 1, wherein the carrier is selected from the group consisting of: (a) recombinant *B. anthracis* protective antigen, (b) recombinant *P. aeruginosa* exotoxin A, (c) tetanus toxoid, (d) diphtheria toxoid, (e) pertussis toxoid, (f) *C. perfringens* toxoid, (g) hepatitis B surface antigen, (h) hepatitis B core antigen, (i) keyhole limpet hemocyanin, (j) horseshoe crab hemocyanin, (k) edestin, (l) mammalian serum albumins, (m) mammalian immunoglobulins, and (n) combinations of two or more thereof.

Claim 6 (original): The conjugate of claim 1, wherein the carrier comprises recombinant *B. anthracis* protective antigen.

Claim 7 (canceled).

Claim 8 (previously presented): The conjugate of claim 1, wherein the poly-γ-glutamic acid (γPGA) polypeptide is the D-conformation, the L-conformation, or a mixture of the D-conformation and the L-conformation.

Claim 9 (previously presented): The conjugate of claim 1, wherein the poly-γ-glutamic acid (γPGA) polypeptide is a γDPGA polypeptide.

Claim 10 (previously presented): The conjugate of claim 1, wherein the poly-γ-glutamic acid (γPGA) polypeptide is a decameric γDPGA polypeptide and the carrier comprises recombinant *B. anthracis* protective antigen.

Claim 11 (previously presented): The conjugate of claim 1, wherein the carrier is covalently linked to either the amino or carboxyl terminus of the poly-γ-glutamic acid (γPGA) polypeptide.

Claim 12 (previously presented): The conjugate of claim 1, wherein the carrier is covalently linked to the poly-γ-glutamic acid (γPGA) polypeptide via a thioether, disulfide, or amide bond.

Claim 13 (previously presented): The conjugate of claim 1, wherein the density of poly-γ-glutamic acid (γPGA) polypeptide to carrier is between about 5:1 and about 32:1.

Claim 14 (previously presented): The conjugate of claim 1, wherein the density of poly-γ-glutamic acid (γPGA) polypeptide to carrier is between about 10:1 and about 15:1.

Claim 15 (original): The conjugate of claim 1, wherein the γPGA polypeptide is covalently linked to the carrier via an aldehyde (CHO)/adipic acid hydrazide (AH) linkage.

Claim 16 (previously presented): A composition comprising the conjugate of claim 1 and a pharmaceutically acceptable vehicle.

Claim 17 (original): The composition of claim 16, further comprising an adjuvant.

Claim 18 (previously presented): A composition comprising the conjugate of claim 9 and a pharmaceutically acceptable vehicle.

Claim 19 (original): The composition of claim 18, further comprising an adjuvant.

Claim 20 (previously presented): A method of eliciting an immune response against a *Bacillus* antigenic epitope in a subject, comprising introducing into the subject the composition of claim 16, thereby eliciting an immune response in the subject.

Claim 21 (previously presented): The method of claim 20, wherein the immune response is elicited against the poly-γ-glutamic acid (γPGA) polypeptide.

Claim 22 (previously presented): The method of claim 20, wherein the immune response is elicited against the poly-γ-glutamic acid (γPGA) polypeptide and the carrier.

Claims 23-33 (canceled).

Claim 34 (currently amended): An immunogenic conjugate comprising a *Bacillus* poly-γ-glutamic acid (γPGA) polypeptide covalently linked to a carrier, wherein the carrier is selected from the group consisting of: (a) recombinant *B. anthracis* protective antigen, (b) recombinant *P. aeruginosa* exotoxin A, (c) tetanus toxoid, (d) diphtheria toxoid, (e) pertussis toxoid, (f) *C. perfringens* toxoid, (g) hepatitis B surface antigen, (h) hepatitis B core antigen, (i) keyhole limpet hemocyanin, (j) horseshoe crab hemocyanin, (k) edestin, (l) mammalian serum albumins, and (m) combinations thereof, and wherein the conjugate elicits an immune response against *Bacillus* poly-γ-glutamic acid (γPGA) polypeptide in a subject.

Claim 35 (previously presented): The conjugate of claim 34, wherein the carrier comprises recombinant *B. anthracis* protective antigen.

Claim 36 (previously presented): The conjugate of claim 34, wherein the *Bacillus* γPGA polypeptide comprises a *B. anthracis*, *B. licheniformis*, *B. pumilus*, or *B. subtilis* γPGA polypeptide.

Claim 37 (previously presented): The conjugate of claim 34, wherein the *Bacillus* γPGA polypeptide is the D-conformation, the L-conformation, or a mixture of the D-conformation and the L-conformation.

Claim 38 (previously presented): The conjugate of claim 34, wherein the *Bacillus* γPGA polypeptide is a *B. anthracis* capsular γDPGA polypeptide.

Claim 39 (previously presented): The conjugate of claim 34, wherein the carrier is covalently linked to either the amino or carboxyl terminus of the *Bacillus* γPGA polypeptide.

Claim 40 (previously presented): The conjugate of claim 34, wherein the carrier is covalently linked to the *Bacillus* γPGA polypeptide via a thioether, disulfide, or amide bond.

Claim 41 (previously presented): The conjugate of claim 34, wherein the *Bacillus* γPGA polypeptide is covalently linked to the carrier via an aldehyde (CHO)/adipic acid hydrazide (AH) linkage.

Claim 42 (previously presented): A composition comprising the conjugate of claim 34 and a pharmaceutically acceptable vehicle.

Claim 43 (previously presented): The composition of claim 42, further comprising an adjuvant.

Claim 44 (previously presented): A method of eliciting an immune response against a *Bacillus* antigenic epitope in a subject, comprising introducing into the subject the composition of claim 42, thereby eliciting an immune response in the subject.

Claim 45 (previously presented): The method of claim 44, wherein the immune response is elicited against the *Bacillus* capsular poly-γ-glutamic acid (γPGA) polypeptide.

Claim 46 (previously presented): The method of claim 44, wherein the immune response is elicited against the *Bacillus* capsular poly-γ-glutamic acid (γPGA) polypeptide and the carrier.

Claim 47 (previously presented): The conjugate of claim 1, wherein the carrier is a polysaccharide or a polypeptide.

Claim 48 (previously presented): The conjugate of claim 1, wherein the carrier is a bacterial toxin or a viral protein.

Claim 49 (previously presented): The conjugate of claim 5, wherein the carrier is selected from the group consisting of (a) recombinant *B. anthracis* protective antigen, (b) recombinant *P. aeruginosa* exotoxin A, (c) tetanus toxoid, (d) diphtheria toxoid, (e) pertussis toxoid, (f) *C. perfringens* toxoid, (g) hepatitis B surface antigen, and (h) hepatitis B core antigen.

Claim 50 (previously presented): The conjugate of claim 9, wherein the carrier is *B. anthracis* protective antigen, and the conjugate elicits an immune response against γDPGA and against *B. anthracis* protective antigen.

Claim 51 (previously presented): The conjugate of claim 9, wherein the conjugate elicits IgG anti-γDPGA antibodies in the subject.

Claim 52 (previously presented): The conjugate of claim 51, wherein the conjugate also elicits IgG anti-carrier antibodies.

Claim 53 (previously presented): The method of claim 20, wherein the immune response elicits IgG anti- *B. anthracis* γPGA antibodies and IgG anti-carrier antibodies in the subject.

Claim 54 (previously presented): The conjugate of claim 34, wherein the carrier is selected from the group consisting of (a) recombinant *B. anthracis* protective antigen, (b) recombinant *P. aeruginosa* exotoxin A, (c) tetanus toxoid, (d) diphtheria toxoid, (e) pertussis toxoid, (f) *C. perfringens* toxoid, (g) hepatitis B surface antigen, and (h) hepatitis B core antigen.

Claim 55 (previously presented): The conjugate of claim 38, wherein the conjugate elicits IgG anti-γDPGA antibodies and IgG anti-carrier antibodies in the subject.

Claim 56 (previously presented): The method of claim 44, wherein the immune response elicits IgG anti- *B. anthracis* γPGA antibodies and IgG anti-carrier antibodies in the subject.

Claim 57 (previously presented): The conjugate of claim 1, wherein the conjugate includes a plurality of γPGA polypeptide chains per carrier molecule.

Claim 58 (previously presented): The conjugate of claim 1, wherein the conjugate has a density of γPGA chains to carrier molecule of at least about 5:1.

Claim 59 (previously presented): The conjugate of claim 34, wherein the conjugate includes a plurality of γPGA polypeptide chains per carrier molecule.

Claim 60 (previously presented): The conjugate of claim 34, wherein the conjugate has a density of γPGA chains to carrier molecule of at least about 5:1.

Claim 61 (currently amended): An immunogenic conjugate comprising poly-γ-glutamic acid (γPGA) covalently linked to a carrier, wherein the conjugate elicits an immune response against poly-γ-glutamic acid (γPGA) in a subject, and the conjugate has a density of γPGA chains to carrier molecule of at least about 5:1.

Claim 62 (previously presented): The conjugate of claim 57, wherein the carrier is a polymeric carrier.

Claim 63 (previously presented): The conjugate of claim 58, wherein the carrier is a polymeric carrier.